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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/910,574	07/20/2001	Eugene Gorbatov	42390P12150	1414

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EXAMINER

YIMAM, HARUN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/18/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,574

Applicant(s)

GORBATOV ET AL.

Examiner

Harun M. Yimam

Art Unit

2623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 April 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-15,18-21,26,27,29-31 and 33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,6-15,18-21,26,27,29-31 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicants' arguments filed 04/20/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Applicants' arguments regarding the 112 first paragraph rejection of claims 26 and 30 is persuasive and the rejection has been withdrawn.
3. In response to applicants' argument (page 9, 2nd paragraph) that Stettner does not teach or suggest that the event notifications are transmitted over a TV channel that is different than the TV channel being displayed and also different than the TV channel having the event of interest to the viewer, the Examiner would like to point out that Applicants are calling the vertical blanking interval (VBI) line of a channel as a specialized TV channel that is different than said TV channel being displayed (see page 6 of applicants' disclosure). Having said that, the Examiner uses Stettner to teach this limitation - said third television channel being vertical blanking interval (VBI) used for the transmission of ATVEF event notification triggers. Therefore, all of the claimed limitations are met by the combination of Omoigui and Stettner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-3, 6-15, 18-21, 26, 27, 29-31 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Omoigui (2005/0086688) in view of Stettner (2002/0104090).

Considering claim 1, Omoigui discloses receiving a television stream (paragraph 0029, lines 10-13 and paragraph 0054, lines 1-9); causing the display of a first program of a first television channel received in the television stream for viewing by a viewer (paragraph 0034, lines 1-2); and notifying the viewer of an event occurring in a second program of a second television channel being broadcast concurrently with the first program (paragraph 0038, lines 1-19 and paragraph 0067, lines 1-8).

Omoigui fails to disclose the notification of the event being transmitted over a third television channel.

In analogous art, Stettner discloses that the notification of the event could be transmitted over a third television channel (ATVEF triggers representing event

notifications—paragraph 0032, lines 1-26. It is known that ATVEF triggers are transmitted in the VBI of a television signal. Therefore, “ATVEF triggers” reads on “third television channel”).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Omoigui’s system to include the notification of the event being transmitted over a third television channel, as taught by Stettner, for the benefit of providing different notification means to the viewer and also reach large number of consumers using an inexpensive distribution means.

As for claims 2 and 14, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses that the television stream comprises an enhanced television stream (triggering events—paragraph 0035, lines 15-22).

With regards to claims 3 and 15, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses receiving an event notification (triggering event—paragraph 0035, lines 15-22) within the enhanced television stream, the event notification indicating occurrence of the event (paragraph 0035, lines 15-27).

As for claims 6 and 18, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses automatically causing the changing of the channel after

the event occurs to display the second program of the second channel instead of the first program (paragraph 0040, lines 2-4).

With regards to claims 7 and 19, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses concurrently causing the display of the first program on a first portion of a display and the second program on a second portion of the display (paragraph 0040, lines 6-10).

Regarding claim 8, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses identifying portions of programs as signifying events (indicating the beginning of an event, such as Tiger Woods tee off—paragraph 0035, lines 15-27).

Considering claims 9 and 20, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses registering for notification of events (paragraph 0035, lines 1-15).

As for claims 10 and 21, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses receiving a plurality of event notifications (receiving triggering events—paragraph 0035, lines 15-27) and filtering the event notifications to identify those event notifications corresponding to registered events (only the notifications that are matched up with user registrations for notification are sent to the

client—paragraph 0035, lines 22-27 and paragraph 0036, lines 1-5), and notifying the viewer of occurrences of registered events for which event notifications have been received (paragraph 0035, lines 25-27 and paragraph 0038, lines 15-19).

With regards to claim 11, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses that the registered events occur in programs broadcast on a plurality of channels (paragraph 0054, lines 9-15).

Considering claim 12, Omoigui and Stettner disclose the claimed limitations. In particular, Omoigui discloses that the second program is broadcast live (paragraph 0035, lines 1-3) and the event is determined in real-time (paragraph 0095, lines 1-6).

As for claim 13, Omoigui discloses a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions (paragraph 0046, lines 9-21 and paragraph 0050, lines 1-4), wherein the instructions are executed by a processor (paragraph 0051, lines 1-7), the instructions provide for handling of event notifications in television programming (instructions for implementing the notifications steps—paragraph 0050, lines 1-13), the instructions including receiving a television stream (paragraph 0029, lines 10-13 and paragraph 0054, lines 1-9); causing the display of a first program of a first television channel received in the television stream for viewing by a viewer (paragraph 0034, lines 1-2); and notifying the viewer of an event occurring in a second program of a second television channel being broadcast concurrently with the first program (paragraph 0038, lines 1-19 and paragraph 0067, lines 1-8).

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Omoigui fails to disclose the notification of the event being transmitted over a third television channel.

In analogous art, Stettner discloses that the notification of the event could be transmitted over a third television channel (ATVEF triggers representing event notifications—paragraph 0032, lines 1-26. It is known that ATVEF triggers are transmitted in the VBI of a television signal. Therefore, “ATVEF triggers” reads on “third television channel”).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Omoigui’s system to include the notification of the event being transmitted over a third television channel, as taught by Stettner, for the benefit of providing different notification means to the viewer and also reach large number of consumers using an inexpensive distribution means.

Regarding claims 26 and 30, they are rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claims 2, 9 and 10. Furthermore, applicants should note that the ATVEF triggers representing event notifications (Stettner—paragraph 0032, lines 1-26) read on the limitation “selected specialized television channel” and also note that said ATVEF triggers are not in the first set of television channels as claimed.

With regards to claims 27 and 31, they are rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 11.

Considering claim 29, it is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claims 6 and 9.

Considering claim 33, it is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claims 6 and 9.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harun M. Yimam whose telephone number is 571-272-7260. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on 571-272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HMY


ANDREW Y. KOENIG
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER